[17th September 1947

" (*d*) There is no proposal before Government. The Special Officer, District Board, Vizagapatam, has been asked to obtain the permission of the Director of Public Instruction to convert the Board Higher Elementary School at Chipurupalli into a Middle School from 1947–48. The question of opening higher forms can be considered only after experience is gained of the working of the middle school."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What is the policy of the Government in regard to opening of high schools in places where the need for the same is felt?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
" The policy of the Government is that they would like to encourage the opening of such high schools."

Marketing of agricultural produce.

* 23 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any Agricultural Marketing Acts, Central or Provincial, that are in force in the Province now;

(*b*) if so, what they are and whether annual reports on the working of the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933, are being submitted;

(*c*) what is the staff employed as Marketing Officers, etc., and the duties allotted to them; and

(*d*) whether the Government have under consideration any schemes to create better facilities for the marketing of agricultural produce?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) The Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act, 1933, is in application in this Province in the following areas :—

In respect of cotton.—The area within the limits of the Tiruppur Municipality, and a radius of five miles around it in the Coimbatore district; the area within the limits of the Adoni Municipality and a radius of five miles around it in Bellary district; and the area within the limits of Nandyal Municipality in the Kurnool district.

In respect of tobacco.—The area within the limits of Guntur district; and the area within the limits of Bezwada taluk in the Kistna district.

In respect of groundnut.—The area within the limits of South Arcot district.

The Act applies to cotton, groundnut and tobacco only. Its further extension to new areas has been stopped, pending comprehensive legislation to regulate the marketing of agricultural commodities.

" (*b*) Annual reports are being submitted by the six Market Committees mentioned above.

17th September 1947]

"(c) The Government have appointed one Provincial Marketing Officer and three Assistant Marketing Officers for marketing and they are attached to the Agricultural Department. The functions of the Marketing Officers are—

(1) conduct of market surveys;

(2) developmental work in marketing including fixation of standard grades, regulation of market, supply of market intelligence and information and submission of marketing schemes.

Each Assistant Marketing Officer is in charge of a group of commodities, namely—

(1) cereals and oil seeds;

(2) livestock and livestock products; and

(3) fruits, vegetable and special crops.

The regulated market committees under the Madras Commercial Crops Market Act are in charge of elected committees and employ their own staff from out of their funds. The marketing staff also render help and advice in regard to the working of the Commercial Crops Markets Act.

"(d) The question of undertaking legislation to regulate marketing of all agricultural produce on the lines of Central Marketing Bill is under the consideration of Government. The Government have also under consideration a five-year plan for development of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and construction of godowns."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Have the Government at any time considered the question of attaching these Marketing Officers to the Co-operative Department?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"I do not think it has been considered yet."

Exclusion of pepper-vine from the list of 'garden' crops.

* 24 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what 'garden' crops are;

(b) whether pepper-vine in South Kanara is included in the list of 'garden' crops;

(c) whether pepper-vine is not treated as a 'garden' crop in Malabar;

(d) whether the Marjoribanks Committee (1937) recommended the exclusion of pepper-vine from the list of 'garden' crops in South Kanara also; and

(e) whether the Government have given effect to this recommendation and carried out necessary alterations in the assessment registers?